

THE TIME MACHINE

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

H.G. WELLS

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

SYNOPSIS

Proclaiming time as the most overlooked of the four dimensions, the Time Traveller hosts six possible converts to his way of thinking at his regular Thursday night dinner in Richmond, England, near the end of the nineteenth century. He trots happily down the hall to his laboratory and returns with a small metal framework the size of a clock. He claims the model of his time machine, with its two levers and saddle, took two years to create. Demonstrating the real machine in his laboratory, he declares his intention to explore time. His guests are mystified after the machine disappears.

The next week, at the instruction of the Time Traveller's note, the unnamed Medical Man serves as host. The Traveller, appearing rather abruptly in a dirty coat with a cut on his chin, pale skin, and a haggard expression, interrupts the gathering. After ravenously consuming food and champagne, he confesses that, since four o'clock that afternoon, he has lived eight days. He promises to tell the assembly the entire story.

The Traveller describes how he spins dizzily away on his contraption; time flashes by him before he can stop. In a garden surrounded by large marble statues and immense ruined buildings, he tries to remount his machine and tips it over, striking his chin. Graceful robed people called Eloi approach, each diminutive with sweet, fragile looks. The Traveller is surprised at how childlike and indolent the people are in the year 802,701 A.D. To protect them, he removes the lever from his machine and then joins them in a meal of fruit. At evening, he discovers that his machine is gone. In terror and despair, he clings to the hope that he may make another. The next day, the Traveller determines from tracks on the ground that his machine has been placed within a pedestal.

Intrigued by the thrum of engines coming from circular wells, he investigates. His attention is drawn from the wells to Weena, a drowning female, whom he rescues. With Weena's help he makes more observations about the Eloi, particularly their fear of Morlocks, the ape-like creatures which live underground and attack by night. He concludes that humankind of the future has evolved into two races—the gentle Eloi and their apish, subterranean enemies.

After a preliminary climb down to an underground cavern, the Traveller returns. Weena informs him that the greatest danger from Morlocks comes during the dark of the moon. The Traveller wanders to the ruins of the Green Porcelain Palace, a museum where he locates matches and a lump of camphor to use as weapons. As

he attempts to find his way back, he carries Weena. They become lost in the wood, where Morlocks lie in ambush. In defense, the Traveller lights a fire. Morlock hands rob him of his matches. To ward them off, the Traveller strikes out at them with his iron bar. In the fray, Weena vanishes.

The Traveller finds his way through the smoke back to the museum and regains his bearings. He weeps for the lost Eloi girl and suffers a bout of loneliness. The Traveller locates his time machine in the pedestal, but before he can escape, Morlocks trap him. He quickly mounts and eludes them. Traveling into the dim future, he arrives on a desolate beach, where a monstrous crab menaces. More than thirty million years in the future, he reaches a lifeless earth.

Returning to the present, he arrives at the laboratory and joins his guests. Unbelieving, they are silent at the end of his tale. The Time Traveller prepares himself for a second journey. With a flash, he is gone and does not return in the intervening period of three years. The odd flowers he leaves behind from his first journey are all that remain as proof.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in Bromley, Kent, to a crockery seller and the housekeeper of the estate of Uppark, Herbert George Wells (1866-1946), noted wit and twentieth century political and social critic, received the bulk of his education from reading, which became his solace after he broke his leg in 1874. At the age of fourteen, Wells was apprenticed first at Hyde's Drapery in Portsmouth and then to a chemist. He later taught science as a student assistant at Midhurst Grammar School and at eighteen won a scholarship to the Normal School of Science in South Kensington, where he studied under Thomas Henry Huxley, noted British biologist and supporter of the theories of Charles Darwin.

During Wells's college years, he founded and edited *Science Schools Journal*, a student publication, for which he wrote numerous short stories. One of these first efforts, *The Cosmic Argonauts*, was the kernel for *The Time Machine* and ran in three installments. Two later versions, the first a series of disconnected articles for a London magazine and the second a serial in *The New Review*, aided Wells in honing technique and refining the idea for his first and reputedly most successful novel.

In 1891, Wells settled into a teaching job in a correspondence college, married his cousin Isabel, and wrote "The Rediscovery of the Unique" for the *Fortnightly Review*. From articles on education for obscure

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magazines and journals, Wells moved to fiction, beginning with *The Time Machine* in 1895. He abandoned teaching, left his wife, and married Amy Catherine Robbins, a former student, in 1895.

In 1900, at Spade House, his new home in Folkestone, Kent, Wells enjoyed the friendship of noted literati, especially George Bernard Shaw, Joseph Conrad, Henry James, and Rudyard Kipling. At this coastal resort, Wells reared his sons and wrote many of his early novels in his garden study overlooking Sandgate Bay. In 1930, he moved to Marylebone Road, London, and remained a Londoner until his death.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Wells, a selfmade man who rose to notoriety during World War I after coining the phrase "the war that will end war," became a celebrity and railed against personal annoyances, both great and small. Yet, these pessimistic years spent in his house in Regent's Park, London, failed to dim the reading public's enthusiasm for his early works, the forerunners of modern science fiction.

Forever chafing at the confines of social class, Wells filled his novels with hope and sympathy for commoners, particularly those whose lives are altered by science and learning, and garnished his work with touches of piquant humor. He was obviously influenced by Jules Verne and other prophetic writers of the nineteenth century, but he advanced the utopian novel from light fantasy into the realm of social criticism. From his viewpoint at the end of the Victorian Era, Wells looked into the vast changes yet to come in the twentieth century and prophesied the effect these inventions and concepts would have on the human spirit.

The Time Machine, a science fiction novella which takes the form of social allegory, lacks the polish of Wells's later works. Still, it embodies themes which reappear throughout his career, notably the relative importance of the working class and the values of an increasingly machine-minded society. Like later science fiction masters, especially Ray Bradbury, Wells maintained his suspicions about technology and its effect on the human spirit.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To comprehend the scientific background of the novella
2. To understand the Traveller's interest in time as a dimension
3. To analyze the progression of settings all the way to the end of time
4. To pinpoint differences in straight narrative and flashback
5. To note developing understanding in the main character
6. To discuss the effect of dissent from established beliefs
7. To contrast points of view in minor characters
8. To note the importance of fire as a weapon and symbol
9. To anticipate how the Traveller will respond to the extremes of time
10. To explain the effects of loss, fatigue, and regret

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast the Time Traveller with his guests in terms of intellectual curiosity
2. To note differences in the guests' response after the Time Traveller demonstrates his machine
3. To describe the Eloi's actions after the Traveller's arrival
4. To explain why the Time Traveller is curious about the wells and their inhabitants
5. To discuss how life differs for the subterranean Morlocks
6. To assess the importance of independence and courage in the main character
7. To comment on the evolution of two races, Eloi and Morlocks
8. To explain the importance of minor characters, particularly Weena
9. To locate examples of predictions of the future
10. To comment on the significance of the unusual blossoms

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. "To discover a society," said I, "erected on a strictly communistic basis." (Chapter 1, p. 7)
"Communism," I said to myself. (Chapter 4, p. 36)
(By referring to communistic and communism with a small C, the speaker indicates a commune or community in which residents share ownership of all property, such as the New Harmony settlement in Indiana, founded by Robert Owen in 1824. The speaker is not referring to the more formalized Marxist-Leninist government in which ownership of property is restricted and all economic decisions made by the state, as was demonstrated by the U.S.S.R.)

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2. The next Thursday I went again to Richmond—I suppose I was one of the Time Traveller's most constant guests—and, arriving late, found four or five men already assembled in his drawing room. (Chapter 2, p. 14)

(Wells sets his novella in Richmond, a city southwest of London in Greater London on the River Thames. He relies on a central intelligence to see and describe the events of the story.)

3. Presently I noted that the sun belt swayed up and down from solstice to solstice, in a minute or less, and that consequently my pace was over a year in a minute; and minute by minute the white snow flashed across the world and vanished, and was followed by the bright, brief green of spring. (Chapter 3, p. 23)

(The Time Traveller delineates the passage of time by the lengthening and shortening of days, i.e. from June 22—the longest day in the year—to December 22—the shortest day in the year. If he is seeing more than 365 days in a minute, the passage of time must look like a flickering cinema, with white snows and green springs flashing by every thirty seconds.)

4. So long as I travelled at a high velocity through time, this scarcely mattered; I was, so to speak, attenuated—was slipping like a vapour through the interstices of intervening substances! But to come to a stop involved the jamming of myself, molecule by molecule, into whatever lay in my way; meant bringing my atoms into such intimate contact with those of the obstacle that a profound chemical reaction—possibly of a far-reaching explosion—would result, and blow myself and my apparatus out of all possible dimensions—into the Unknown. (Chapter 3, pp. 24-25)

(Wells's The Time Machine anticipates the scientific breakthroughs of the early twentieth century, notably the developing quantum theory of physicists Max Planck and Niels Bohr. From this restructuring of the way humanity looks upon matter came the work of Albert Einstein and the resulting nuclear age and exploration of space.)

5. The pedestal, it appeared to me, was of bronze, and was thick with verdigris. (Chapter 3, p. 26)

(Verdigris, a term deriving from "green of Greece," is a greenish poisonous corrosion. Formed by the action of acid on copper, the stylish distortion in copper plating is really a transformation of pure copper to copper acetate by way of the corroding action of atmospheric conditions. Verdigris can be created artificially as a means of weathering or aging art objects made from copper.)

6. However, I felt like a schoolmaster amidst children,

and persisted, and presently I had a core of noun substantives at least at my command; and then I got to demonstrative pronouns, and even the verb "to eat." (Chapter 4, p. 34)

(Like most people who learn a foreign language from contact with natives, the Time Traveller begins by pointing out specific objects and asking their names. Then he learns to substitute this, that, these, and those for nouns. Finally, by necessity, he is forced to indicate body needs by acting out his desire for food. Thus, he adds a crucial verb to his vocabulary.)

7. Then my eye travelled along to the figure of the White Sphinx upon the pedestal of bronze, growing distinct as the light of the rising moon grew brighter. (Chapter 5, p. 43)

(The sphinx, a mythical being composed of the recumbent body of a lion and the head of a human or bird, traditionally symbolizes an enigma or puzzle. Dating to 2550 B.C. in Egypt, the sphinx, bearing the likeness of the pharaoh, stood opposite its twin as paired guardians to temples or shrines.)

8. Twice I fancied I saw a solitary white, ape-like creature running rather quickly up the hill, and once near the ruins I saw a leash of them carrying some dark body. (Chapter 5, p. 56)

(In the dim half-light, the Time Traveller gets an indistinct picture of Morlocks, who are colorless from their lack of exposure to the sun. Their simian shape suggests a subhuman species with bestial behavior patterns. The view of a group of these beings carrying a "dark body" answers in part the Traveller's questions concerning cemeteries, crematoria, and old people.)

9. I think I have said how much hotter than our own was the weather of this Golden Age. (Chapter 5, pp. 57-58)

(The Time Traveller notices the excessive heat of the future. He refers to the "younger Darwin," probably Erasmus Darwin, Charles Darwin's grandfather. Erasmus was a physician and free-thinker who surmised that the planets will one day reconverge with the sun, from which they sprang. It is interesting to note that scientists currently fear that the earth is warming as a result of an increase in the gases that absorb and re-radiate heat from the earth and sun.)

10. If only I had thought of a Kodak! I could have flashed that glimpse of the Under-world in a second, and examined it at leisure. (Chapter 6, p. 70)

(Photography, developed from Daguerre's invention in the mid-nineteenth century, was advanced by George Eastman, an American. Eastman's first commercial model, a boxy camera dubbed with the made-up name of Kodak,

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appeared in 1888. It was replaced by a folding model shortly before this novella was written and was reduced to pocket size by 1895.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Catalog the most significant of the Time Traveller's friends. Give information about each.

(The Editor: *is a rare visitor who comes to the second dinner to obtain a story for his newspaper; jokes about dust on the host's clothes; wishes that the Traveller were a journalist; calls the Traveller's story of time travel a "gaudy lie."*)

Medical Man: *is genuinely interested in the relationship of the four dimensions; believes in common sense; serves as host during the Traveller's absence; is curious about the classification of the white blossoms; believes that the Traveller is overworked.*

Provincial Mayor: *knits his brow and tries to understand the concept of the fourth dimension.*

Psychologist: *believes that people can never travel from one time period to another; believes that the Traveller's experiment is "humbug"; moves the lever and begins the demonstration.*

Speaker: *displays a sincere concern for the Traveller's welfare; returns to the laboratory out of natural curiosity; observes the final departure of the Time Traveller; believes that humanity will survive into a later age; respects the Time Traveller's experiment.)*

2. Describe physical evidence of the Time Traveller's first journey.

(Upon his return from the initial voyage, the Time Traveller exhibits proof that he indeed lived eight days in a matter of hours. His appearance is so shocking that he is greeted with a cry of "Good heavens! Man, what's the matter?" His clothing is dusty, dirty, and smeared with green. His hair is unkempt and grayer in color, as though it faded.

The Traveller's skin is pale with a half-healed cut on his chin. He seems "haggard and drawn as by intense suffering." Somewhat dazzled by the dining room light in his Richmond home, he limps to the table for a glass of champagne, which he downs in a gulp. Unable to explain himself fully without a second glass, he swallows the refill before demonstrating a resurgence of color and vibrance.

With a proper farewell to guests, he excuses himself to bathe and change before assuaging his hunger. His inarticulate explanation is "I'm—funny! Be all right in a minute." In tattered, blood-stained socks the Time Traveller patters out the door. Upon returning to his guests in more suitable attire, he is still haggard and attacks his serving of mutton with the "appetite of a tramp.")

3. Describe the Time Traveller's deceleration process. (As he returns from the future, the Time Traveller must look for clues to the time period in order to stop his machine at the right moment. He watches the hands spin on the dials as the sun becomes more golden and the sky blue. He slackens his speed when the millions dial reaches zero and halts when the architecture seems "petty and familiar.")

The thousands dial flips back to zero as day and night slip by at a lessening speed. Then the Time Traveller feels the walls of his laboratory coming around as he gently slows his time machine. One detail that proves he has reversed the process is the return of the housekeeper, Mrs. Watchett, who "[glides] quietly up the laboratory" and disappears through the door.

Grounded at last in safe harbor, the Time Traveller draws comfort from the familiarity of his tools and appliances "just as I had left them." With quaking legs, he dismounts and sinks down on his bench, trembling violently. So familiar is the scene that he first suspects he has dreamed the entire voyage, but the position of the machine against the northwest wall proves that the Morlocks carried it across the lawn to the pedestal of the White Sphinx over eight hundred thousand years in the future.)

4. Describe the displays in the Palace of Green Porcelain. (In the deserted, corroded edifice, the Time Traveller and Weena stroll through a variety of scientific and cultural exhibitions. Moving through broken doors, the Time Traveller first discerns amid the dust-covered images the immense frame of a brontosaurus. Concluding that the building is indeed a museum, the Traveller notes fossils, minerals, and vestiges of stuffed animals and plants.

A second colossal gallery holds big machines, where the Traveller extracts a lever to use as a weapon. In a third gallery, which is hung with shreds of flags, he locates the "decaying vestiges of books." Up a broad staircase resides a "gallery of technical chemistry," where the Traveller's discovery of matches leads him to frolic in an impromptu dance. Together with sealed jar of camphor, the matches increase the Traveller's fire-power and restore his confidence.

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Later perusals turn up a "long gallery of rusting stands of arms" and a "vast array of idols." Wearing by his roving, the Traveller wanders stolidly through a model tin-mine and dynamite cartridges. Finally, he and Weena arrive in a court and refresh themselves with fruit from three trees.)

5. Describe the Time Traveller's escape from the future. (Wearied by a harrowing night in the burning forest, the Time Traveller bites himself to stay awake, then in the morning, succumbs to sleep after three days of wakefulness. Just before sunset, with a comfortable stretch, he strolls toward the White Sphinx. Armed with crowbar and matches, he approaches the pedestal and is surprised to find it open.)

Within its small apartment he locates the time machine—oiled and cleaned by Morlock hands. The Traveller throws down his weapon and examines his machine. The bronze panels of the pedestal slam shut, trapping him in darkness. The Traveller's confidence is shaken by the realization that his matches will not strike without the emery panel on the box. Lashing out at the Morlocks, he bolts into the saddle, fits the levers into the studs, butts at an attacker, and disappears into gray light.)

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. Contrast the Time Traveller's first view of the Eloi with his introduction to Morlocks.

(On first view, the first half-dozen Eloi appear diminutive, dressed alike in unisex costume, with "soft hairless visage, and the same girlish rotundity of limb." After a bit of thought, he deduces that similarity of the sexes is to be expected in the "sunset of mankind." He also comprehends that the Eloi's weakness is to be expected in their advanced state of civilization. Even when Weena is about to drown in the Thames, the Eloi lack the vigor to rescue her.)

With time come more perceptions. The Time Traveller perceives the Eloi to be simple-witted and lacking in attention span. Their sentence structure is short and simple. As a group, the Eloi lack aged and crippled members. They dine on fruit and sleep in large groups, never venturing out into the dark.

Wandering toward an inaccessible gallery, the Time Traveller spies a different sort of being, marked by two luminous reflective eyes peering from the darkness within. He touches a soft body and addresses a "queer little ape-like figure, its head held down in a peculiar manner." As the bestial creature flees rapidly, it gives the impression of dull whiteness with "strange large greyish-red eyes" and "flaxen hair on its head and down its back." It appears to run on all fours.

The Time Traveller likens the apparition to a "human spider.")

7. What does the Time Traveller blame for the strange evolution of Morlock habitat?

(The explanation of Morlocks and their subterranean warren seems "clear as daylight" to the Time Traveller. Reflecting on the differences "between the Capitalist and the Labourer," he surmises that society in his own time tends to place the less ornamental aspects of civilization underground. He cites as examples the Metropolitan Railway in London, subways, and underground workrooms and restaurants. He extends the development into the future, when industry loses "its birthright in the sky.")

As more working class people cluster in London's East-end, the Traveller concludes that the rich are widening the gulf between the classes by closing "considerable portions of the surface of the land." The end result, he states, is an above-ground abode for the Haves and a wretched underground subsistence for the Have-nots.)

8. What criticisms of his own time does Wells incorporate in his description of Morlocks?

(Wells rails against conditions of working class Victorians by his description of the underworld existence of the future. The Morlocks, "locked" into their sightless hellhole amid the throb of machinery, develop enlarged, sensitive eyes which, like the sightless fish of the caves of Kentucky, see nothing. Deprived of the civilities of a more refined lifestyle aboveground, the Morlocks creep about in a foul-smelling, shadow-lined world and subsist on crude haunches of meat taken from the effete peoples that frolic above them.)

The Traveller reflects that he set out into the future expecting to find people "infinitely ahead of ourselves in all their appliances." His come-uppance in the subterranean caverns of the Morlocks represents the disillusion of the late Victorian Era with an unbounded optimism in progress and improvement. Like Dickens before him, the novelist serves as eyes for an uncaring society.

Wells introduces the Traveller to the future miasma of weakened overlords preyed upon by cannibalistic workers. He compares the Morlocks to a "standing horse [pawing] with his foot." Because their ancestors shoved their fellow humans "out of the ease and the sunshine," the Eloi must relearn the old lessons of fear that belong to an uncivilized age.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. How does Wells earn his reputation for brilliance and acuity?

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(Only five years before the death of Queen Victoria, Wells presages the post-Victorian malaise which dampens the enthusiasm of an unprecedented era of growth and expansion. Wells predicts that workers who are shoved back into subhuman living conditions and dead-end expectations re-evolve as troglodytes. Like cave dwellers of the earliest eras, the working class—its deprivation symbolized by squinting, sightless eyes—must fend for itself in the darkness of night, which is more spiritual than physical.)

Another aspect of Wells's precocity is his anticipation of the pre-nuclear age, ushered in by the work of twentieth century physicists, particularly Enrico Fermi, Niels Bohr, Max Planck, and Albert Einstein. Foreseeing that humanity would one day challenge the last frontiers of time and space, Wells rockets his Time Traveller forward to the last days of earth, mounted on the transportation of the future—a time machine that suggests the configuration of a fancy bicycle.)

10. How does this novella apply to current young people and their perceptions of the future?

(Like Victorians, the current reader can apply the separation of classes to world situations of exploitation and suppression, such as that experienced in developing countries where farmers grow illegal drugs and destroy rain forests in order to survive. Just as Morlocks suck the marrow from Eloi bones, many countries feel they have no option but to sap the energies of decadent "civilized" nations by inundating them with cocaine, marijuana, and hashish.)

Questions 11 and 12 Creative Level

11. Describe what scenes you would photograph if, like the Time Traveller, you were traveling to the future with your camera. Explain how you would use your photographs on your return to the present.
12. Create a glossary for the novel of technological terms that might be unfamiliar to the average reader. Include pronunciation and definition for each term. Some examples include Cretaceous Sea, saurians, Jurassic time, Triassic Age, Oolitic coral reef, plesiosaurus, camphor, parapet, mallows, Four Dimensions, paleontology, mace, deliquesce, Nebuchadnezzar phases, saltpeter, steatite, nitrates, and *Philosophical Transactions*.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Read several works from science fiction that deal with the future, such as Ray Bradbury's "All Summer in a Day", Kurt Vonnegut's "Who Am I This Time?", Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, Karel Capek's *R.U.R.* or Isaac Asimov's "It's Such a Beautiful Day".

Compose an essay on how fiction writers are able to escape reality to imagine faraway times and places.

2. Read a few critical essays on H. G. Wells. Summarize his unique contribution to science fiction.
3. Sketch a few scenes which contrast the lifestyle of the Eloi with that of the Morlocks. Emphasize grace versus bestiality as well as the idealized landscape on earth as opposed to the rank underground chambers below the wells.
4. Make a mock blueprint of the time machine by giving a top, side, and front view. Include notes about materials, dimensions, and purpose of each part.
5. Select a time in the past that you would like to visit. Name an historical figure or event that interests you. Give details that spark your curiosity.
6. Describe where and how the Time Traveller makes his next appearance on earth. Indicate physical results of his journeys, especially fatigue, cuts and bruises, and wear and tear on his clothing and equipment.
7. List ten questions you would like to ask Weena about life among the Eloi. Include questions you have about Morlocks.
8. Describe your own city centuries in the future. Explain what vestiges of the past remain on city streets, such as old buildings, railroad tracks, statues, or other landmarks. Add information about new buildings, recreation facilities, schools, hospitals, methods of transportation, and other changes brought on by improvements in technology.
9. Write a vignette about a get-together where you and your friends share a meal and argue a controversial point. Make each character's contribution clear, individual, and significant.
10. Make a list of details from the story that arise from the author's own experience, such as his interest in photography.
11. Read other science fiction stories dealing with time travel, such as T.E. Sherrid's "E for Effort", Ray Bradbury's "A Sound of Thunder" or Robert Heinlein's "All You Zombies" or "By His Bootstraps". Describe how different authors have dealt with the concept of travelling through time and the problems that could arise from it.

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TEACHING NOTES

OTHER WORKS BY H. G. WELLS

Ann Veronica (1909)

Anticipations (1901)

Apropos of Delores (1938)

Boon (1915)

Croquet Player (1938)

Experiment in Autobiography (1934)

First Men in the Moon (1901)

Food of the Gods (1904)

History of Mr. Polly (1910)

Island of Dr. Moreau (1896)

Invisible Man (1897)

Kipps (1905)

Love and Mr. Lewisham (1900)

Mankind in the Making (1903)

Mind at the End of Its Tether (1945)

Modern Utopia (1905)

Mr. Britling Sees It Through (1916)

New Machiavelli (1911)

Open Conspiracy: Blue Prints for a World Revolution (1928)

Outline of History (1920)

Science of Life (1931)

Shape of Things to Come (1933)

Sleeper Wakes (1899)

Tono-Bungay (1909)

War in the Air (1908)

War of the Worlds (1898)

Work, Wealth, and Happiness (1932)

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VOCABULARY TEST

Locate a pair of words from the list below to complete each of the following sentences.

- _____ 1. Either I missed some _____ point, or their language was _____ simple
- _____ 2. In writing it down I feel with only too much _____ the _____ of pen and ink
- _____ 3. Here was the same beautiful scene, the same abundant _____, the same splendid palaces and magnificent ruins, the same silver river running between its _____ banks.
- _____ 4. Looking at these stars suddenly _____ my own troubles and all the _____ of terrestrial life.
- _____ 5. 'Some _____ trick or other,' said the Medical Man, and Filby tried to tell us about a _____ he had seen at Burslem
- _____ 6. I looked up again at the _____ white shape, and the full _____ of my voyage came suddenly upon me.
- _____ 7. Already I saw other vast shapes—huge buildings with intricate _____ and tall columns, with a wooded hill-side dimly creeping in upon me through the _____ storm.
- _____ 8. Possibly the checks they had _____ for the increase of population had succeeded too well, and their numbers had rather diminished than kept _____.
- _____ 9. I wondered _____ what foul _____ it might be that the Morlocks did under the new moon.
- _____ 10. Then, in a flash, I perceived that all had the same form of costume, the same soft hairless _____, the same girlish _____ of limb.
- _____ 11. But the Time Traveller had more than a touch of _____ among his _____, and we distrusted him.
- _____ 12. An _____ murmur filled my ears, and a strange, dumb _____ descended on my mind.
- _____ 13. I might seem some _____ savage animal, only the more dreadful and disgusting for our common likeness—a foul creature to be _____ slain.
- _____ 14. In the matter of _____, for instance, I could see no signs of _____ nor anything suggestive of tombs.
- _____ 15. I saw the wild _____ of my _____ overnight and I could reason with myself.

- A. foliage, fertile
- B. parapets, lessening
- C. whim, elements
- D. devised, stationary
- E. sepulture, crematoria
- F. subtle, excessively
- G. folly, frenzy
- H. sleight-of-hand, conjuror

- I. visage, rotundity
- J. vaguely, villainy
- K. old-world, incontinently
- L. eddying, confusedness
- M. keenness, inadequacy
- N. crouching, temerity
- O. dwarfed, gravities

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Completion (20 points)

Complete each quotation below with a phrase from the list that follows.

- _____ 1. In costume, and in all the differences of texture and bearing that now mark off the sexes from each other,
- _____ 2. Better equipped indeed they are,
- _____ 3. To adorn themselves with flowers, to dance, to sing in the sunlight:
- _____ 4. I felt hopelessly cut off from my own kind—
- _____ 5. So, in the end, above ground you must have the Haves, pursuing pleasure and comfort and beauty,
- _____ 6. However great their intellectual degradation,
- _____ 7. So I travelled, stopping ever and again, in great strides of a thousand years or more,
- _____ 8. There are really four dimensions,
- _____ 9. They had to chatter and explain the business at great length to each other,
- _____ 10. Looking at these stars suddenly dwarfed my own troubles.

- A. for the strong would be fretted by an energy for which there was no outlet.
- B. and below ground the Have-nots, the Workers getting continually adapted to the conditions of their labour.
- C. these people of the future were alike.
- D. three which we call the three planes of Space, and a fourth, Time.
- E. and all the gravities of terrestrial life.
- F. a strange animal in an unknown world.
- G. drawn on by the mystery of the earth's fate, watching with a strange fascination the sun grow larger and duller in the westward sky, and the life of the old earth ebb away.
- H. the Eloi had kept too much of the human form not to claim my sympathy, and to make me perform a sharer in their degradation and their Fear.
- I. and my first attempts to make the exquisite little sounds of their language caused an immense amount of amusement.
- J. so much was left of the artistic spirit, and no more.

THE TIME MACHINE

Part II: Matching (30 points)

Match the following events with their locations. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. Friends meet regularly on Thursday nights.
- _____ 2. The Time Traveller's friends first see the real time machine.
- _____ 3. Grooves indicate that the time machine has been hidden.
- _____ 4. The Time Traveller and the Eloi dine on fruit.
- _____ 5. The Morlocks enter and exit the Eloi world.
- _____ 6. The Time Traveller rescues Weena.
- _____ 7. The Time Traveller sees a red haunch of meat on a metal table.
- _____ 8. The Time Traveller finds the skeleton of a brontosaurus.
- _____ 9. Weena disappears.
- _____ 10. The Time Traveller views Earth without life thirty million years in the future.
- _____ 11. The Time Traveller learns from the *Pall Mall Gazette* that he has arrived at the proper time.
- _____ 12. The Editor and the speaker discuss the Time Traveller's story in private.
- _____ 13. The speaker meets the Time Traveller for the last time.
- _____ 14. The speaker reads a magazine while waiting to have lunch with the Time Traveller.
- _____ 15. The speaker sees the Time Traveller vanish in a blur.

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. laboratory | H. Thames River |
| B. a pretty structure like a well under a cupola | I. woods |
| C. Palace of Green Porcelain | J. a bronze statue with a winged sphinx on top |
| D. the Time Traveller's dining room in Richmond | K. smoking-room |
| E. subterranean cavern | L. passage outside the laboratory |
| F. a large gray building with arched doorway and colored glass window | M. the speaker's room |
| G. red beach | N. Jurassic times |
| | O. cab |

THE TIME MACHINE

Part III: Character Identification (20 points)

Name the character who is described in each phrase below. Select your answer from the list that follows. Some answers will be used more than once. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. is reduced to simple weapons—hands, feet, teeth, and four matches.
- _____ 2. turns the lever and sends the model on a voyage.
- _____ 3. is unable to identify the order of the unidentified flowers.
- _____ 4. regrets that the Time Traveller is not a writer of stories.
- _____ 5. views crabs in a distant time.
- _____ 6. accuses the Traveller of telling a “gaudy lie.”
- _____ 7. has strange greyish-red eyes and flaxen hair down its back.
- _____ 8. is oddly girlish and gentle with a giggling voice.
- _____ 9. serves as host to the Thursday night dinner in the Traveller’s absence.
- _____ 10. returns to the laboratory out of curiosity about the Time Traveller’s story.

Editor
Morlock

Eloi
Psychologist

Journalist
speaker

man-servant
Time Traveller

Medical Man
Very Young Man

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Describe the dislike that the Time Traveller feels for Morlocks. Give reasons for his loathing.
2. Explain how the Time Traveller uses fire to good advantage.
3. Contrast either the Eloi or Morlocks with real human beings.

THE TIME MACHINE

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase from the list below in answer to the following questions. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. What does the Time Traveller remove from his machine in order to protect the Eloi?
- _____ 2. What does the speaker keep as his comfort?
- _____ 3. What is the time machine made of besides brass, ebony, and ivory?
- _____ 4. Where does the Time Traveller have half-healed scars?
- _____ 5. What burning substance does the Traveller throw at the Morlocks?
- _____ 6. Who weeps tears in the Golden Age?
- _____ 7. What is the fourth direction in which the body must have extension?
- _____ 8. On what night do the friends regularly meet in Richmond?
- _____ 9. Who winks at the speaker?
- _____ 10. Who creates the headline "Remarkable Behaviour of an Eminent Scientist"?

camphor	dimension	duration
Editor	Filby	flowers
iron bar	knuckles	lever
porcelain	quartz	shoe
Thursday	Traveller	Weena

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark each of the following statements either **T** for true or **F** for false.

- _____ 1. The Time Traveller plans to take Weena back to his own time.
- _____ 2. No one sees the Time Traveller make his final departure.
- _____ 3. The Time Traveller stays away three years before returning.
- _____ 4. Evidence in the forest indicates that the Morlocks devoured Weena's corpse.
- _____ 5. The Time Traveller believes that humanity commits suicide by setting itself on a course of comfort and ease.
- _____ 6. The Eloi speak simple sentences usually made up of two words.
- _____ 7. The Morlocks communicate with the Eloi in the same language.
- _____ 8. The Morlocks must stay away from sunlight because of an extreme sensitivity of the retina.
- _____ 9. The Time Traveller notices that the Thames has shifted about a mile from its former location.
- _____ 10. The Time Traveller loses the heel of his shoe in Combe Wood and must hobble to the bronze pedestal with his foot wrapped in large white blossoms.

THE TIME MACHINE

Part III: Completion (30 points)

Complete each of the following statements with a word from the list below. You will have answers left over when you finish. Notice that number 9 repeats the answer.

1. The _____, for instance, they taught you at school is founded on a misconception.
2. "Is not that rather a large thing to expect us to begin upon?" said _____, an argumentative person with red hair.
3. That gives you the exact distance from my little lawn to the _____ of the White Sphinx, into which the Morlocks had carried my machine.
4. . . . it seemed clear as daylight to me that the gradual widening of the present merely temporary and social difference between the Capitalist and the _____, was the key to the whole position.
5. Under the new conditions of perfect comfort and security, that restless energy, that with us is strength, would become _____.
6. I remember a long gallery of rusting stands of arms, and how I hesitated between my _____ and a hatchet or a sword.
7. But I had my hand on the climbing bars now, and, kicking violently, I disengaged myself from the clutches of the Morlocks and was speedily clambering up the shaft, while they stayed peering and blinking up at me: all but one little wretch who followed me for some way, and wellnigh secured my _____ as a trophy.
8. "Where is my _____?" I began, bawling like an angry child, laying hands upon them and shaking them up together.
9. We are kept keen on the _____ of pain and necessity, and, it seemed to me, that here was that hateful _____ broken at last!
10. Then I felt other soft little _____ upon my back and shoulders.
11. But the _____, it seemed to me, was still the same tattered streamer of star-dust as of yore.
12. It is a law of nature we overlook, that intellectual _____ is the compensation for change, danger, and trouble.
13. So I travelled, stopping ever and again, in great strides of a thousand years or more, drawn on by the mystery of the earth's _____, watching with a strange fascination the sun grow larger and duller in the westward sky, and the life of the old earth ebb away.
14. . . . Clambering among these heaps of masonry, I found a narrow _____, whose end and side windows were blocked by fallen masses of stone.
15. But to me the future is still black and blank—is a vast _____, lit at a few casual places by the memory of his story.

boot	crowbar	fate
Filby	gallery	geometry
grindstone	ignorance	Labourer
Milky Way	pedestal	tentacles
Time Machine	versatility	weakness

THE TIME MACHINE

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Discuss how and why the Time Traveller investigates the Morlocks.

2. Describe the struggle in the woods.

3. Project what would have happened if an Eloi had returned to the Time Traveller's world.

THE TIME MACHINE

ANSWER KEYS

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. N | 11. C |
| 2. M | 7. B | 12. L |
| 3. A | 8. D | 13. K |
| 4. O | 9. J | 14. E |
| 5. H | 10. I | 15. G |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. H |
| 2. A | 7. G |
| 3. J | 8. D |
| 4. F | 9. I |
| 5. B | 10. E |

Part II: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. H | 11. L |
| 2. A | 7. E | 12. O |
| 3. J | 8. C | 13. K |
| 4. F | 9. I | 14. K |
| 5. B | 10. G | 15. A |

Part III: Character Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Time Traveller | 6. Editor |
| 2. Psychologist | 7. Morlock |
| 3. Medical Man | 8. Eloi |
| 4. Editor | 9. Medical Man |
| 5. Time Traveller | 10. speaker |

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. lever | 6. Weena |
| 2. flowers | 7. duration |
| 3. quartz | 8. Thursday |
| 4. knuckles | 9. Filby |
| 5. camphor | 10. Editor |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part III: Completion (30 points)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. geometry | 9. grindstone |
| 2. Filby | 10. tentacles |
| 3. pedestal | 11. Milky Way |
| 4. Labourer | 12. versatility |
| 5. weakness | 13. fate |
| 6. crowbar | 14. gallery |
| 7. boot | 15. ignorance |
| 8. Time Machine | |

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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